

Case by case - the design and implementation of sustainable communities

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The paper will discuss a unique Canadian initiative called “Smart Growth on the Ground”, in which an integrated multi-stakeholder process known as a “charrette” is being used as an effective tool for designing and implementing smarter, more sustainable communities. The goal of Smart Growth on the Ground is to transform sustainable community design from being the exception to being the norm in British Columbia and beyond. This paper will demonstrate how this is being accomplished. More importantly, it will describe the resultant positive impact that is being experienced for issues related to green infrastructure, and in particular storm water management and stream health. Using case study information, the paper will emphasize how integrated multi-stakeholder participation in the design process is the key to gaining municipal and public support for implementing green infrastructure projects. Additionally, the paper will show how the charrette tool is pertinent to communities throughout the world, and can result in rapid quantifiable benefits (improvement in water quality, reduction in energy use and air emissions, increase in functional green space, and so on) at a broader, more holistic level.